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(71) Applicant: **HEAR-WEAR TECHNOLOGIES, LLC**  
[US/US]; 2323 South Sheridan, Tulsa, OK 74129-1043  
(US).

(72) Inventors: **FEELEY, Jim**; 6904 E. 118th Street, South,  
Bixby, OK 74008 (US). **FEELEY, Mike**; 4624 E. 87 Place,  
Tulsa, OK 74137 (US).

(74) Agents: **CRAWFORD, Christopher, S., L. et al.**; Ful-  
bright & Jaworski L.L.P., 2200 Ross Avenue, Suite 2800,  
Dallas, TX 75201-2784 (US).

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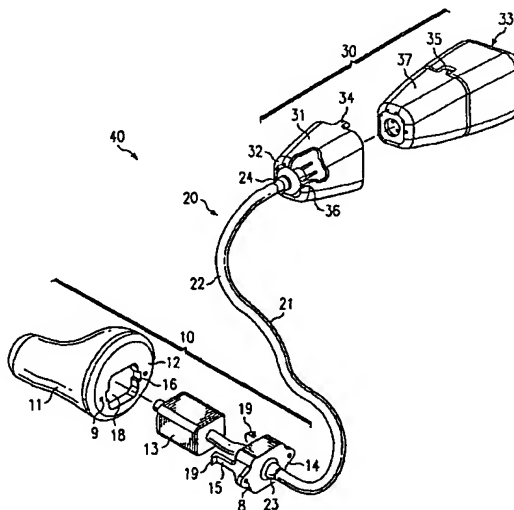
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(54) Title: **A BTE/CIC AUDITORY DEVICE AND MODULAR CONNECTOR SYSTEM THEREFOR**



(57) Abstract: An earpiece auditory device includes a behind-the-ear (BTE) component, which includes processing circuitry. In an embodiment, the device also includes a completely-in-canal (CIC) component, shaped to fit into the ear canal of the user such that it touches the bony portion of the ear canal. In some embodiments, the CIC component includes either a universal fit or a custom fit ear mold. The custom fit ear mold can be fabricated using a rapid prototyping technology, in which the contours of the users' ear canal are scanned, and the scan data is used either directly or indirectly to replicate the ear canal contours of that user into the custom fit ear mold. In some embodiments, the ear mold is detachably interconnected with a speaker module, preferably using either an intermediate sleeve or a detachable locking pin assembly. In another embodiment, the speaker module is permanently encapsulated within the ear mold.

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Y    A	WO 00 42817 A (SONIC INNOVATIONS) 20 July 2000 (2000-07-20)  page 1, line 16-28 page 4, line 8-35  page 5, line 25 -page 12, line 14 ----- -/--	1-17, 22-33, 36-38, 43,45,47  18-21, 34,35, 39-42, 44,46
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